

Quality of Life

Discussion

The Marine Corps is committed to efficient, effective and equitable management and delivery of Quality of Life (QOL) programs and services. Taking care of Marines and their families is essential to Corps.

QOL programs directly impact readiness and operational responsiveness. As the Nation's force-in-readiness, maintaining the highest levels of operational readiness and responsiveness is paramount. Marines who know that they and their families are being taken care of are more likely to be focused on the job at hand – combat readiness. From a long-term perspective, QOL has a positive effect on recruiting, retention, and motivation to serve. These programs are tools for commanders to enhance, develop, and support Marines on an individual or unit basis.

The Commandant's QOL program priorities are: pay and allowances, appropriate and responsive health care, bachelor and family housing, and proactive, supportive community support programs. These programs are consistent with those of DoD and the Marine Corps has committed significant resources and effort to them.

QOL touches Marines in almost every area of their lives. Because of this, the Marine Corps has revolutionized its approach to QOL program and service delivery by creating Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS). MCCS provides a nearly seamless system of programs and services to support Marines and their families in almost every aspect of life. MCCS is more than a concept, it is the future of taking care of Marines and their families. It bundles the capabilities of previous support systems such as Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), Family Services, and Voluntary Education and adds new service dimensions designed to build strong Marine families and Marine Corps communities.

MCCS is delivered through five operational pillars: Marine Corps Family Team Building, Semper Fit, Personal Services, Business Operations and General Support. These operate interdependently to provide a combination of programs and services that meet Marines' needs. There are two operational goals. Equity assures the availability of appropriate programs and services to all Marines wherever assigned. Prevention provides proactive support and education programs that foster prevention of problem behaviors before they occur, obviating the need for reactive intervention and treatment. The New Parent Support Program, Mentors in Violence Prevention, and Semper Fit Health Promotion are prime examples of this proactive, prevention based effort. Through these and

other innovative efforts, MCCS provides commanders with an impressive capability to address the needs of Marines and their families throughout the Corps.

Marine Corps Position

The Marine Corps has made a significant continuing commitment to QOL to sustain and support retention and readiness. The innovative MCCS organizational model, with its focus on equity and prevention, provides Marines and their families with “best-of-breed” programs and services that support and enhance the quality of their lives.